



Washington's
Mental Health Transformation Project
Partnerships for Recovery & Resiliency

TRANSFORMATION NEWS

JUNE 30, 2006

www.MHTransformation.wa.gov

TWG REVIEWS STRATEGIES

On June 16 in Wenatchee, the Task Groups, assigned by the TWG to develop strategies in response to the 27 Outcomes, presented their recommendations for Transformation. The body of work was remarkable! Each Task Group developed sets of strategies or principles that would guide the changes called for in the grant. Additionally, many of the members of the Task Groups offered to continue their work, developing implementation guides once the final plan has been approved.

The TWG endorsed the work of the Task Groups and advanced the material to include in the Comprehensive Mental Health Plan (CMHP). The draft plan is now due on August 1, 2006. Public comment period commences then for two weeks. To adjust for adequate review and comment period, the TWG pushed their August 4 meeting out to August 25. At that time, the TWG will consider the elements of the CMHP, respond to public comments and approve the CMHP as a final draft for submittal to Governor Gregoire. The presentations of the Task Groups to the TWG and the actions taken by the TWG can be found on the [Priority Reports](#) page of our web site.

NEXT STEPS

The TWG endorsed the principles and scope of recommendations from Subcommittees and Task Groups on June 16. The CMHP will contain a long list of strategies to achieve the Outcomes. The recommendations will be examined and prioritized by the agencies responsible for implementing change. Each strategy may require a variety of actions by the agencies of the TWG. As that work continues, the Task Group members and Subcommittee members will be available to offer guidance on implementation. For instance, the Financial Task Group has created a time line for designing specific actions necessary to implement the funding decisions of the agencies as they select strategies to advance.

There are a number of questions agencies will need to address in selecting and implementing the strategies. Agencies need to assess the current systems to determine how a particular strategy will be rolled out. They will also need to examine issues like funding, sequencing and coordination across other agencies. They may also be policy issues that either cause barriers to implementation, or policies requiring change to facilitate Transformation. Once the final CMHP is approved, the MTHP will begin supporting the many activities required for implementation by providing technical assistance, training and policy guidance.



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STAFF PROFILE: ANGELA FRENCH



Angela French joined our staff as webmaster/IT support in February 26. She came from Aging & Disability Services Administration where she had honed her web development skills since 2001. Prior to pursuing a MS degree in Information Technology from Arizona State University (2001), Angela spent 11 years in the print publishing industry as publisher of a monthly sports and fitness magazine. Angela is enthusiastic about all things "web" and is excited for the opportunity to contribute her varied skills to the Transformation effort in Washington State.

When not sitting in front of a computer, Angela can often be seen running or biking the streets of the Olympia area, kayaking the Puget Sound, clambering over peaks in the Cascades and Olympics, playing her piano, or tinkering in her garden.

LEGISLATIVE TASK FORCE MEETS IN SPOKANE

The Joint Executive/Legislative Task Force on Mental Health will convene in Spokane on Jul 6, 2006. Included in the agenda is a briefing on the status of the Mental Health Transformation Grant draft recommendations and the Comprehensive Mental Health Plan. Also listed on the agenda is an update on the Request for Proposal for Regional Support Network designation, and RSN electronic health records and paperwork Reduction.

Ken Stark will deliver the presentation on the Projects progress towards the Plan. The results from the TWG Task group presentations and the actions taken by the oversight group will be discussed. The meeting concludes with an opportunity for public comment. The meeting runs from 10:00 to 2:00 at the Spokane City Hall Chambers, 808 W. Spokane Falls Boulevard.

Thank you for sharing our newsletter with others. Questions or comments?
Contact David Brenna, 360-902-8456 or brenndc@dshs.wa.gov. Visit our web site at www.MHTtransformation.wa.gov If you'd like to sign up for this newsletter to come to your email address, sign up for the MHTG -NEWS Listserv: <http://listserv.wa.gov/archives/mhtg-news.html>